Calendar No. 615

97TH CONGRESS
2d Session

SENATE

REPORT
No. 97-432

AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT OF 1966

MAY 26 (legislative day, MAY 25), 1982.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MATHIAS, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2390]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to which was referred the bill (S. 2390) to amend the Act of October 15, 1966 (80 Stat. 953; 20 U.S.C. 65a), relating to the National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, so as to authorize additional appropriations to the Smithsonian Institution for carrying out the purpose of said Act, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

PURPOSE

The National Museum Act of 1966 charges the Director of the National Museum to expand the role of the Smithsonian Institution in assisting the museums of our Nation in studying museum problems and opportunities, training career museum employees, preparing and distributing museum publications, researching and contributing to museum techniques, and cooperating with other agencies of the Government of the United States which are concerned with museums. S. 2390 as referred would extend the authorization of the National Museum Act through fiscal years 1983, 1984, and 1985. This authorization would be at the level of $782,000 for fiscal year 1983, and "such sums as may be necessary" for the two succeeding years.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the national museum community has been least able to meet their own requirements in the training of skilled permanent staff and the preservation of deteriorating collections. It was to meet

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this need that caused the creation of the National Museum Act. Funds were first authorized for the National Museum Act in fiscal year 1968. No funds were appropriated, however, in fiscal year 1968, 1969, or 1970. In 1970, 1974, and 1977, the program was reauthorized, each time for three years. In 1980, the program was reauthorized for two years. Except for an authorization of $803,000 for fiscal year 1980, the authorization for the program has since its inception always stood at $1 million, but appropriations have never reached this level. The National Museum Advisory Council, appointed by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and representing a cross section of museum interests and disciplines and the various regions of the country, reviews the expenditures made under the Act. In 1973, the National Conservation Advisory Council was created, and is funded under the Act.

Committee Action

On April 20, 1982, the Committee on Rules and Administration held hearings on S. 2390. Testimony was received from S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Lawrence Reger, Director of the American Association of Museums; and Bonnie VanDorn, Executive Director of the Association of Science-Technology Centers. Statements for the record were received from Gerald W. George, Director of the American Association for State and Local History, and from Stephen R. Edwards, Executive Director of the Association of Systematics Collections. In addition, communications were received by the committee from five museums. All of the foregoing supported reauthorizing the National Museum Act.

Committee Findings

The National Museum Act is administered by a staff of two, under the direction of the Assistant Secretary for Museum Programs. In fiscal year 1981, 183 applications for grants were received, and 58 were approved, for a total of $716,000 out of an appropriation of $795,000 for that year. In fiscal year 1982, total appropriations for the Act were $781,000, of which $686,000 was awarded in grants.

In their testimony, witnesses clarified an issue about which questions had arisen in 1980, the apparent duplication among the National Museum Act, the Institute of Museum Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, and the National Science Foundation. The organizations have different aims and methods. The primary missions of the National Museum Act are museum personnel training and collection conservation. The National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities do little work in museum conservation research and none in personnel training. The Institute of Museum Services makes grants to cover both operating costs and collection acquisitions. Neither of these classes of grants are offered by the Smithsonian Institution under the National Museum Act, nor could they be, given the difference between the annual appropriation of $12 million for the IMS and the National Museum Act's annual appropriation of under $1 million. The Smithsonian Institution works closely with all of the above organizations to avoid duplication of effort, and to help evaluate grant applications. The Smithsonian also uses the resources of other offices within the Institution to

evaluate grant applications and avoid duplication, such as the Conservation Analytical Laboratories and the Museum Reference Center. No grants from the National Museum Act go to employees or officers of the Smithsonian Institution.

Committee Amendment

The Committee on Rules and Administration concurred with the fiscal year 1983 authorization request of $782,000, which is comparable to the actual appropriation for fiscal year 1982. But the committee amended the "such sums" language in the bill for fiscal years 1984 and 1985 with the specific amounts of $1 million for each year.

Cost Estimate

U.S. Congress,
Congressional Budget Office,
Washington, D.C., May 24, 1982.

Hon. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to Section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Congressional Budget Office has prepared the attached cost estimate for S. 2390 to authorize additional appropriations to the Smithsonian Institution for the National Museum Act.

Should the Committee so desire, we would be pleased to provide further details on the attached cost estimate.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Scheppach
(For Alice M. Rivlin, *Director*).

Congressional Budget Office—Cost Estimate

1. Bill number: S. 2390.
2. Bill title: To authorize additional appropriations to the Smithsonian Institution for the National Museum Act.
3. Bill status: As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, May 21, 1982.
4. Bill purpose: The purpose of this bill is to extend and amend the National Museum Act and to authorize additional appropriations to the Smithsonian Institution in 1983 through 1985 to carry out this Act.
5. Cost estimate:

	Millions
Authorization level:	
Fiscal year:	
1983	$0.782
1984	1.0
1985	1.0
1986	------
1987	------
Estimated outlays:	
Fiscal year:	
1983	.700
1984	1.0
1985	1.0
1986	.1
1987	------

The costs of this bill fall in budget subfunction 503.

6. Basis for estimate: The authorization levels for 1983 through 1985 are stated in this bill and the estimate assumes that all authorizations will be fully appropriated. Outlays are based on historical spendout rates for museum programs of the Smithsonian Institution.

7. Estimate comparison: None.

8. Previous CBO estimate: None.

9. Estimate prepared by: Stacey Sheffrin.

10. Estimate approved by:

C. G. NUCKOLS
(For James L. Blum,
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis).

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In accordance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Rules and Administration does not consider that enactment of S. 2390 would have any regulatory impact.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In accordance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill S. 2390, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 65a OF TITLE 20, UNITED STATES CODE

§ 65a. Director of National Museum; duties; programs and studies; annual report to Congress; authorization of appropriations

(a) the Director of the National Museum under the direction of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution shall—

(1) cooperate with museums and their professional organizations in a continuing study of museum problems and opportunities, both in the United States and abroad;

(2) prepare and carry out programs by grant, contract, or directly for training career employees in museum practices in cooperation with museums, their professional organizations, and institutions of higher education either at the Smithsonian Institution or at the cooperating museum, organization, or institutions;

(3) prepare and distribute significant museum publications;

(4) perform research on, and otherwise contribute to, the development of museum techniques;

(5) cooperate with departments and agencies of the Government of the United States operating, assisting, or otherwise concerned with museums; and

(6) report annually to the Congress on progress in these activities.

(b) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Smithsonian Institution [for the fiscal year 1981, the sum of $803,000, and for the fiscal year 1982, the sum of $1,000,000] *$782,000 for fiscal year 1983, $1,000,000 for fiscal year 1984, and $1,000,000 for fiscal year 1985.*

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